

THE DEADLY DUO™

image
1 JUN \$2.50
\$3.35 CANADA



image comics presents:

THE **DEADLY DUO**™

ERIK LARSEN

Creator • Writer

JOHN CLEARY

Penciller • Inker

GARY CARLSON

Plot Assists

CHRIS ELIOPOULOS

Letterer

**REUBEN RUDE
ANTONIA KOHL**

Colorists

I.H.O.C.

ABEL MOUTON, BILL ZINDEL,
LEA RUDE and STEPHANE KRIESHOK
Color Separations

STUDIO COLOUR GROUP

Film Output

JOSH EICHORN

Script Assist and Irrelevant

IMAGE COMICS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: PUBLISHER:
LARRY MARDER TONY LOBITO

ART DIRECTOR: GRAPHIC DESIGNER:
DOUG GRIFFITH KENNY FELIX

ASST. TO THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: TRAFFIC:
KELLY VAN LANDINGHAM RONNA COULTER

DISTRIBUTION: PRODUCTION:
GERMAINE ZACHARIAH TERESA CESPEDES

THE DEADLY DUO #1 (Of 4). June 1995. FIRST PRINTING. An Image Comics Group title published by Image Comics P.O. Box 25468 Anaheim, CA 92825. THE DEADLY DUO™, KILL-CAT™, KID AVENGER™, DUNG™, ANNIHILATORS™ and all other related characters are Copyright© and Trademark 1995 Erik Larsen. FUSION™ is Copyright© and trademark Erik Larsen and John Cleary 1995. SPAWN® is registered trademark Todd McFarlane Productions 1995. Any similarities to persons living or dead is purely coincidental. With the exception of artwork used for review purposes, none of the contents of this publication may be reprinted without the permission of Erik Larsen. Publisher and creators assume no responsibility for unsolicited materials

Printed in Canada



HIGHBROW
ENTERTAINMENT



AT
LAST.

MY
MOMENT IS
AT HAND.



AFTER ALL THESE YEARS OF TIRELESSLY SERVING THE PEOPLE OF DETROIT, THEY'VE FINALLY TAKEN ME TO THEIR HEARTS.

A CAT-SIGNAL...
=SNIFF=

ALMOST BRINGS A TEAR TO MY EYE.

A SIGNAL TO ALERT HIM OF DANGER...? GOT IT.

BIG POINTY EARS? GOT 'EM.

I THINK I'LL SAVOR THE MOMENT BEFORE I HIGHTAIL IT DOWN TO POLICE HEADQUARTERS TO CHECK UP ON WHAT'S GOING ON.

WHAT'S THAT JERK IN **GOTHAM** GOT THAT I DON'T, HUH?

RESPECT OF THE PEOPLE IN HIS CITY...? HA--GOT IT.

FIVE MINUTES AFTER I'M OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZED AS DETROIT'S HEAD HERO AND ALREADY THE SIGNAL'S BEEN SABOTAGED!

WELL, I WON'T **STAND** FOR IT!

IF I LET THEM GET AWAY WITH THIS THEY'LL GET AWAY WITH ANYTHING!

SOMEBODY'S GOING TO GET HURT!

LOTS OF COOL GEAR...? GOT IT.

A COMPETENT SIDEKICK...
HMMM,

SIGH 'N

FOUR OUT OF FIVE AIN'T BA--HEY!

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?





AN' HERE'S
A SHIT-
BIRDIE.

'S
BYOOTEEFUL.

KID! I
SHOULD HAVE
KNOWN!

FIRST, I'LL
DEAL WITH YOUR
CO-CONSPIRER
IN YOUR ATTEMPT
TO HUMILIATE ME,
AND THEN...

PUNT!

THANK
GOD YOU'RE
HERE, KILL-
CAT!



SOMEONE
TRIED TO KILL
ME! I'VE BEEN
POISONED!

- SNIFF
SNIFF -

NOT
POISONED!
PLASTERED!
YOU'RE
DRUNK!

WHAT HAVE
YOU BEEN
DRINKING?

VODKA, WHISKEY,
RUM, WHINE, BEER,
TEQUILA, BRANDY
PEPPERMINT
SCHNAPPS...



I THINK
THAT WAS
ALL...

OH.
YUCK...

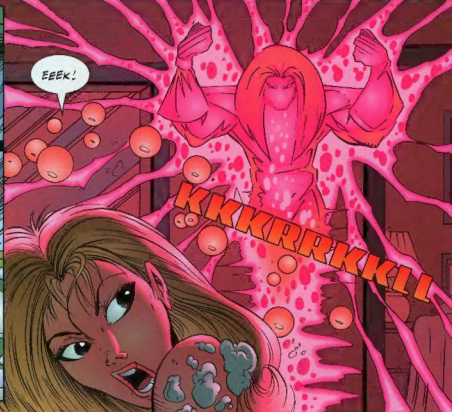
AND
WHAT MIGHT
THAT...

UH-OH...

I SUPPOSE
THAT THIS IS
ANOTHER ONE
OF THOSE THINGS
YOU NEVER GOT
TO EXPERIENCE
LIVING IN THE
FUTURE.

I HAVE A
HUNCH YOU'LL
BE EXPERIENCING
SOMETHING
ELSE REAL
SOON.

CHUCK





SKRA-BOM!

OOPS.

WHOA.



YOU GUYS ARE PATHETIC. I'D PUT YOU OUT OF YOUR MISERY, BUT, HEY-- I DO THIS FOR A LIVING. I START KILLING GUYS FOR NOTHIN' AND WORD GETS AROUND, Y'KNOW?

BESIDES, I'M BLOWIN THIS JOINT--ONWARDS AND UPWARDS. I WON'T HAVE TO DEAL WITH YOU JOKERS ANY MORE. TIME TO PACK MY BAGS AND HEAD OFF TO NEW YORK CITY-- I HOPE SPAWN ALLEY WILL BE MORE OF A CHALLENGE.

WRRRRHLL

FREEZE!

UH-OH.

IT'LL BE A PLEASURE TO DEAL WITH A SUPER-HERO WHO'S GOT HIS ACT TOGETHER.

WE... UH... SURRENDER.

DO YOU HAVE ANY ASPIRIN?



DRAW ME
A PITCHER OF
SPIDER-MAN
NEXT.

HE WAS CLEAN
SHAVEN, WITH LONG
HAIR PARTED IN
THE MIDDLE, THICK
BLACK EYEBROWS--

IT MUST BE
QUITE A THRILL
FOR YOU GUYS
TO MEET A REAL
SUPER-HERO.

YEAH, IT WAS
--WHATEVER
HAPPENED
TO PART,
ANYWAY?

GRRRR.

ARE YOU
FINISHED
WITH THAT
YET?



DID HE
LOOK LIKE--
THIS?



=GASP!=

THAT'S
HIM!

HOLD IT
RIGHT THERE,
YOU FIEND!

NO,
NOT LIKE
THAT, LIKE
THAT!

I'M GOING
TO GIVE YOU
THE POUNDING
OF A LIFETIME!

WHAT? DON'T
BE RIDICULOUS--
THAT'S ADAM
KRASCHER AND
HE'S BEEN HERE
WITH HIS POLICE
BUDDIES EATING
DOUGHNUTS
FOR THE PAST
TWO HOURS.

HUH?

AND
STAY
OUT!

WHERE'S
COMMISSIONER
GORDON
WHEN YOU
NEED HIM?

HAVE YOU
SEEN THE TV
GUIDE.

I THINK THERE'S
A **BRADY BUNCH**
MARATHON ON CHANNEL
FOUR, BUT I'M NOT
SURE WHEN IT STARTS.
YOU KNOW HOW I
LOVE THE **BRADY
BUNCH!**

I DON'T
UNDERSTAND I
KNOW IT WAS HIM.
YOU KNOW IT
WAS HIM, WHY
WASN'T IT
HIM?

THIS
DOESN'T
MAKE ANY
SENSE

MAYBE WE
DIDN'T GET A
GOOD ENOUGH
LOOK.

YOU DIDN'T SEE
HIM AT ALL! YOU
WERE **DRUNK!** NOW
BE QUIET WHILE I
UNRAVEL THIS
INCREDIBLE MYSTERY.
IF ONLY WE KNEW
WHERE HE WAS
GOING TO STRIKE
NEXT.

HE'S GOING
TO BE IN NEW
YORK TOMORROW
--HE SAID SO.

OOOH,
SATURDAY
NIGHT FEVER
IS ON

SHUT
UP.

MMMM IT'S
NOT IN THE
DICTIONARY

THERE'S NO
SUCH PLACE
AS "SPAWN
ALLEY."

MMMMMM

CRIMINALS
ARE A
SUPERSTITIOUS,
CONARDLY
LOT...

I AM
TRYING TO
CONCENTRATE.
DAMN IT

WHERE
COULD HE
BE?



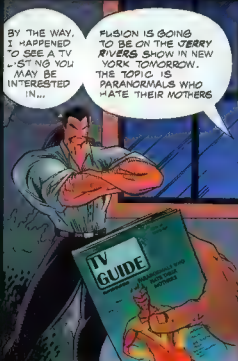
A-HA!

HE WAS TALKING ABOUT SPAWN!

EVERYONE KNOWS THAT SPAWN LIVES IN NEW YORK!

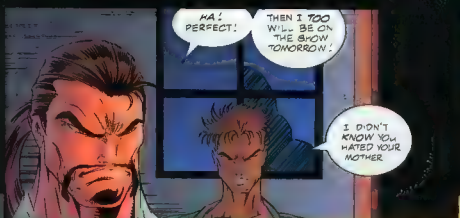
UH HUH.

YOU'RE BRILLIANT.



BY THE WAY, I HAPPENED TO SEE A TV LISTING YOU MAY BE INTERESTED IN...

FUSION IS GOING TO BE ON THE JERRY RIVERS SHOW IN NEW YORK TOMORROW. THE TOPIC IS PARANORMALS WHO HATE THEIR MOTHERS



HA! PERFECT!

THEN I TOO WILL BE ON THE SHOW TOMORROW!

I DIDN'T KNOW YOU HATED YOUR MOTHER



NOT AS MYSELF, YOU IDIOT! THERE IS ANOTHER SUPER-HERO THAT FUSION FEARS EVEN MORE THAN ME! TOMORROW I WILL APPEAR AS...

SPAWN!

GROOVY!

THEN IF HE KICKS YOUR BUTT AGAIN, KILL-CAT'S REPUTATION WON'T BE TARNISHED

SOUNDS GOOD

SHUT UP

QUICK CUT-
THE NEXT
MORNING

THE LIMO
IS HERE TO
TAKE YOU TO
THE JERRY
RIVERS SHOW.
MR KRASHER

I'LL
BE RIGHT
THERE

WILL
YOU EXCUSE
ME FOR A
MOMENT?

OF
COURSE
SIR

I'LL BE UP
FRONT IF YOU
NEED ME.
SIR

FZIRKA-ZAKA

OKAY
THEN-- IT'S
AGREED.

I'LL
ESTABLISH
OUR ALBI
ON LIVE
TV..

AND I'LL
MAKE THE HIT
ON OUR MILL ON
DOLLAR
BUM.

BE CAREFUL OF
SPAWN--HE'S SUPPOSED
TO BE ONE TOUGH SOB.
I DON'T WANT ANY MORE
INCIDENTS LIKE THE ONE
IN DETROIT. THIS ONLY
WORKS IF NEITHER OF
US GETS CAUGHT.

YOU DON'T
HAVE TO TELL
ME TWICE

THE JERRY RIVERS

SHOW



WITH US TODAY IS ADAM KRASCHER, ALSO KNOWN AS FISSION! HE SAYS HIS MOTHER BOSSSED HIM AROUND AND LOCKED HIM IN THE PANTRY WHEN HE WAS NAUGHTY

HE ALSO ADMITS TO WEARING WOMEN'S PANTIES



ALSO THE MYSTERIOUS SPAWN WHO HATES HIS MOM - AND IS THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN ANSWER THE BURNING QUESTION: WHAT IS UNDER ALL THAT SPANDEX, BOXERS OR SOMETHING A LITTLE MORE SILKY?

HI, JERRY



HEY, GUYS -- CHECK T OUT!

IT'S AL!

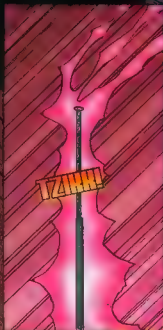


DID YOU KNOW HE...?

WUP.

HELLO THERE, WILLIE.





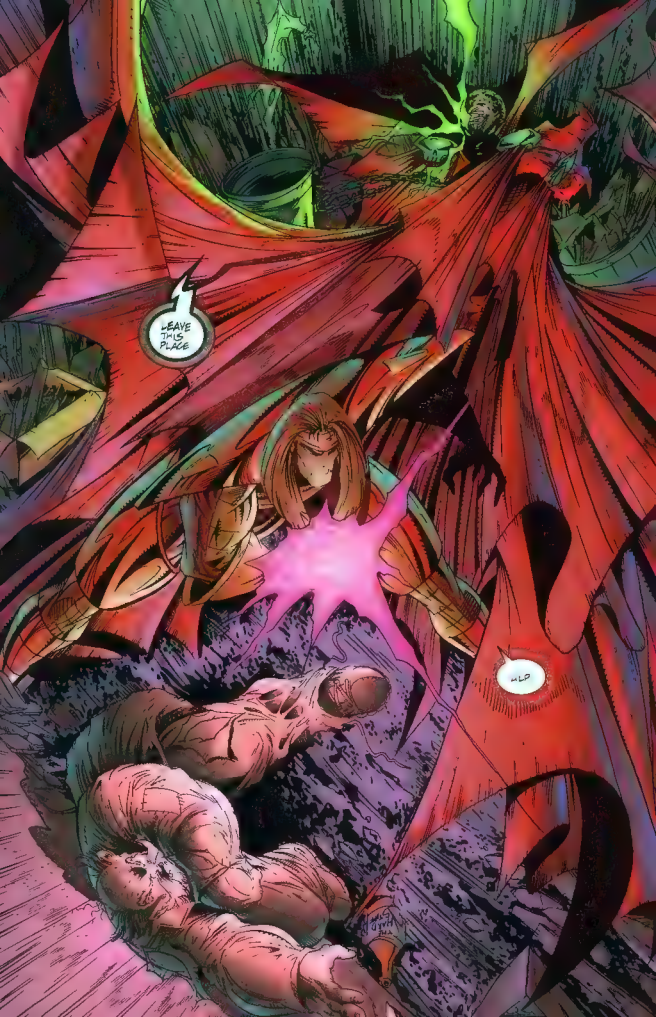
AW, DON'T FEEL BAD, NINJA-E. YOU CAN ALWAYS BUY ANOTHER TV. AFTER ALL, YOU DID EMBEZZLE THREE-HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS FROM MOTOR MOUTH RECORDS, DIDN'T YOU?

UHD
I CAN'T GIVE IT BACK!
I ALREADY SPENT IT!

THEY DON'T WANT IT BACK--
THEY WANT YOU DEAD!

TO--
GHAA.

TZIKKAI!



LEAVE
THIS
PLACE

WLD



AND THAT'S WHY I LIKE TO WEAR WOMEN'S PANTIES.

LIAR!

HE'S LYING, AND I'LL PROVE IT

HUH?

HEY - WHAT'S GOING ON?

THIS!

MAGICAL GUY THAT I AM, I'LL USE MY POWERS TO EXPOSE YOU FOR THE FRAUD YOU ARE!!

AND I'LL BET YOU DON'T HATE YOUR MOTHER B THER--YOU JUST WANTED TO BE ON TV!

GOOD JOB, KID-- YOU WERE ABLE TO POWER MY POCKET X-RAY PROJECTOR--REVEALING HIS UNDERGARMENTS. THEY'LL NEVER CATCH ON THAT IT'S NOT REALLY MY POWER DOING IT!



ULPS!



THAT DOES IT--

NOBODY LAUGHS AT ME!

ZANNA ZANNA ZANNA



TASTE
THE FUTURE,
CREEP!

HA,
HA. NOT
BAD.



BUT I CAN
ABSORB YOUR
BLASTS--

AND GIVE
THEM RIGHT
BACK TO
YOU!

YOW.



THIS ALLEY
IS MINE AND
THE PEOPLE HERE
ARE UNDER MY
PROTECTION

HEY--
WHERE DID
YOU COME
FROM?

COUGH
COUGH.

YOU GOT
HIM, KILL-- I
MEAN, SPAWN!
USE YOUR CLAWS
ON HIM!



THANKS
FOR THE
DISTRACTION,
PUNK!

HERES A
CHARGE UP
YOUR CHAIN,
CHUMP!

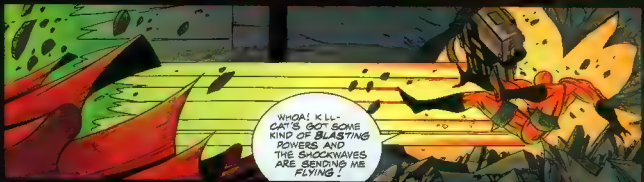
AARGH!



GOOD
EFFORT...

BUT I'VE
WALKED AWAY
FROM A LOT
WORSE THAN
THAT IN MY
TIME

SRAKKA-DOOM!!



WHOA! KILL-
CAT'S GOT SOME
KIND OF BLASTING
POWERS AND
THE SHOCKWAVES
ARE SENDING ME
FLYING!

PREPARE
FOR JUSTICE,
FUSION!

JUSTICE IS
WHAT YOU'LL BE
SEEING

GET
READY FOR
JUSTICE..

HE'S GETTING
THE UPPER HAND
AGAIN --

BLAST
HIM WITH
YOUR RAY-
BEAMS!



**KRAKKA-
ZAKKA-
ZAKKA!**

NOT YOU--
I MEANT
SPAWN!

WHOOOPS!





WE'RE
DESTROYING
THIS STUDIO AND
ENDANGERING
LIVES--MUCH AS
I LIKE AN
AUDIENCE--

I THINK
WE'D BETTER
TAKE THIS BATTLE
OUTSIDE!

HUH?

CURSES!
MY
SECRET IS
OUT!

IT'S THE
REAL SPAWN--
AND HE'S FIGHTING
--HOLY CATS!

SO,
THAT'S YOUR
SECRET!

THERE
ARE TWO OF
YOU!

SPAWN--LET'S
TEAM UP AND
TROUGHSE THESE
LOSERS!

WHO ARE
YOU--AND WHY
DO YOU WEAR
MY COSTUME?

I'M KILL-CAT--
AND I'VE TRACKED
FUSION FROM DETROIT
AND DIDN'T WANT
HIM TO CATCH ON
THAT I WAS REALLY
ME!

NOW,
LET'S POUND
THEM!

NOT
THEM--HIM
--ME.

AND AS ONE
MAN I AM
EVEN MORE
POWERFUL!







KITTY LETTERS

Please send all correspondence to: KITTY LETTERS, P.O. Box 20760, Oakland, Ca. 94620

Welcome to the second Deadly Duo mini-series! Our initial outing did relatively well so I thought I'd try and flag a few more of 'em. As some of you may recall, the first mini-series was announced as a three issues, later to be expanded to four issues as artist Andy Smith needed work and then was clipped back down to three issues as he took on too much work! In any case, I'd written a fourth issue so I thought to myself "why not just do another mini-series?" Before I could reel out my list of good reasons fate handed me—an artist.

John Cleary was anxious to get to work on a legitimate superhero title and I thought that he could be hoodwinked into thinking this was one! I snapped him up and sent him the plot to the elusive fourth issue of the first Deadly Duo mini-series. Then, we decided to turn it into issue #2 of this new mini-series and come up with a new yarn to launch this book.

I can think of no single comic book character more popular than Spawn. Spawn's creator, Todd McFarlane, is one of John Cleary's biggest influences and John suggested we guest star him in the first issue—I didn't need to be told twice! A quick call to Todd and the stage was set. Everything had fallen into place!

It became obvious to me that I couldn't possibly write another book—even if it was a mini-series! The Savage Dragon was taking up all of my time between the ongoing comic book and the upcoming Saturday morning cartoon. I decided to hire a couple of top talents from other Image camps to write issues guest starring their characters. Jeff (Wildstorm/Backlash) Mariotte writes issue #3, guest starring Grunge from Gen 13 and Tom & Mary (Extreme/Youngblood Strikefile) Bierbaum are handling #4, guest starring Riptide from Youngblood. There are a few more scripts in the works but I'm getting ahead of myself.

In any case, I hope you like what you see here and come back for more next month. We're doing our best to bring you some bitchin' funnybooks in the next few months. John Cleary will be drawing them all, Chris Eliopoulos will be on board with the lettering, Reuben Rude and Antonia Kohl will be providing the kind of color that only they can, IHOC will do all the computer separations and I'll be editing and making sure it all turns out all right.

-Erik Larsen

Here's what readers had to say about the previous mini-series...

Dear Erik,

The Deadly Duo #3 serves well to wrap up the hanging questions we had about the pair. Now we have both origins out of the way, and the basic gist of the series set up. We can now move into the stories, without being bogged down in the incessant questions of origin.

Kill-Cat's origin is very, uhm...well...distinct. I'd even go so far as to say it is as ludicrous as this book is. If you tried to use this origin to explain Dragon, it would have been way too silly. This origin fits the style and tone of the series. Maneater and Gator finally get their debut. I can remember this pair from the scrapbook section in the Dragon TPB and thinking that they looked kind of silly. They still do, but what doesn't in this book?

Andy Smith's art will be missed on the next miniseries. Who will his replacement be?

Wow, now there's a new name in your letters column. Dale Keown's lawyer. Never let it be said you don't print negative letters!

Seriously though, I work in the copy room of a law firm when I'm not in school, and if there's one thing I've learned it's that lawyers love to send a memo or a letter or a fax. Especially if they get to cc: them. Then their secretaries have a field day. And, as I'm sure you must realize, copyrights are something that have to be zealously protected to keep them from going public domain. That said, it was either in poor taste or a considerable lack of judgement for Dale Keown to handle this the way he did.

Besides, I'd rather have a Maui guest-star. At least we know his character. I haven't been able to figure out Pitt yet.

I'm looking forward to the next mini-series!

Augie De Blicke Jr.

North Haledon, NJ

Andy's replacement is John Cleary as you know by now.

As for the lawyer letter—they can get a little bit trigger happy at times. I can understand what went on even though it annoyed me at the time. I'm not angry with Dale or anything.

Dear Erik & Co.,

Let's see...hookers from Atlantis... the art continued to kick ass...Kill-Cat's origin was even funnier than Kid Avenger's... hookers from Atlantis... bumbar about Biff (should I feel guilty about puking up intestines from laughing so hard?)... a shock cameo from Rodney Schwartzblatt... hookers from Atlantis... all this, plus Roman, too! What a deal!!!

Fanboy stupid question time:

1. How can Maneater breathe out of water?
2. "Loita Topp?" You da man, Erik!! Damn, whaddaya feed these girls?!

Paragraph-long Keown bash; disregard if you want: I am disgusted by the dirty politics played by Dale Keown. Just for that, see if I ever buy PITT again! (Huh. Weird...not buying PITT is a lot like buying PITT, only you save a couple bucks every five months or so.) Jeez, could this jerk be a little more lethargic? What, does he have something better to do? Five-to-ten says Keown has a La-Z-Boy that he hasn't put together yet. I hear that he's so lazy, he married a pregnant woman! Slug. Pass the salt.

In closing, DD was not only the funniest, most enjoyable limited series I read in 1994 (for all intents and purposes), but one of the funniest, most enjoyable limited series (still not sure that's a word) I've ever read...period! This transcends a "good show!" Two thumbs up! Damn, I wish I had more thumbs! For everybody who says that Image produces nothing but graphic violence, gratuitous half-naked women and absolutely no redeeming social value...well, they're right, but in the case of DD, there was a nice, heaping dose of fun packed in every issue! Can't wait for the sequel! Matt Nickle called it, Erik! We don't care how you put out a fun DD ongoing, we just care that you do put out a fun DD ongoing! Am I exclamation point-happy, or what?!! And if DD can elicit this kind of enthusiasm from a cynical, jaded bastard like me, imagine what everyone else must think!

Until the hookers from Atlantis become the latest attraction at Sea World, all hail Highbrow!

Hookers from Atlantis!

Harry (rhymes with obsessed, very) Simon
Las Vegas, NV

KITTY LETTERS

Please send all correspondence to: KITTY LETTERS, P.O. Box 20760, Oakland, Ca. 94620

I still think Pitt is pretty cool so I don't encourage anybody to boycott it.

1. Same as you and me. She, Gator and Roman can breathe in both air and water.
2. It's a gift. And Hostess Snowballs just like the rest of us.

Dear Erik:

I had to write to take issue with your response to Olav in DD#3 as it was a subject about which I feel very strongly.

As much as you would like to do it and as nice as it would be, you simply cannot have characters from other Image books casually appearing in Highbrow comics (this relates to Maul's limited appearance in DD#2 - in place of the absent Pitt). You're right: they exist in the same universe, it's only obvious that they should run into each other. However, the reality of the situation is that there are a lot of loyal fans out there who feel compelled to won a copy of every book that a particular character appears in. If you are aware of this desire in your fans and actually count on it to help boost Highbrow sales that feature guest appearances, then you have an implicit obligation to give those "crossover" fans value for their dollar.

For the best example of ignoring this obligation, there Rob Liefeld. I read Spawn as religiously as I read your books, but I don't happen to read Youngblood. I did, however, pick up a copy of Youngblood #7 because it carried over the Overkill plot from Spawn. To make a long story short, Liefeld dedicated only a few measly pages to that story line and *continued it* to "Team Youngblood" #8. After suckering all of us Spawn fans into that waste of \$5.00, Liefeld announced a Chapel-Spawn "confrontation" to appear in Youngblood #8. Again, only a few measly pages and again *continued* to Youngblood #10 (which, unless I missed it, is about three months late and counting). If you want to boost your sales by featuring Spawn or the Dragon, that's fine with me—just don't steal from me.

In fairness to you, I know you have only loose control over the handling of your characters once you have generously lent them out. But you have total control over how you handle other's characters. If you always keep in mind the readers who can afford to buy just one book a week—and remember that by featuring a character from their favorite book that you are perhaps making your book their one book this week, then I'm sure you'll agree that that character should play a reasonable part in your story.

If you don't agree, then I'm with Olav—better no appearance at all.

Dave Morris
Fort Washington, PA

Dear Erik Larsen and the other Deadly Duo dudes,

I think Deadly Duo is a killer comic. I have been waiting for it since God knows when. And I am very please with it. But I think you're crazy for making this fantastic comic only a mini-series. Hey, if you ask me it deserves a full series, but it's your comic. Your choice.

Now is the time for some questions.

1. What is the deal with Dart and Kill-Cat?
2. Are you going to use any of those supervillains in Savage Dragon or Freak Force?
3. About how much did you change Kill-Cat and Kid Avenger for the series?

Brad Voegeli
Garland, TX

1. Kill-Cat is obsessed with her and she wants nothing to do with him.
2. Yes.
3. Kill-Cat has been changed quite a bit from his original design (especially his colors—originally he was wearing purple and red) but the Kid is exactly the same. Their origins were changed quite a bit but their personalities were pretty much the same.

Dear Kitty Letters,

Re: Issue #3

Introduction: Well, this being the first letter I've written to a comic in the year of 1995, I decided to take this opportunity to wish the whole Highbrow crew a Happy New Year. This wish not only goes to the producers, but all the readers of Highbrow.

Inside (Art): Mr. Smith draws one hell of a woman. Damn. This book is probably one of the most powerfully drawn books I've ever seen. The no-nonsense line I mentioned in my first letter is prevalent here. Not only the work of Mr. Smith, but the work of Mr. Elliott, deserves commendation.

Inside (Story): Mr. Larsen continues to amaze me at the way he can write a solid story in a funny and delightful way. Kill-Cat's origin was good except that another facet could be made for the character had felt sorry for driving a possible innocent man to his death. The Hooker slave-girls from Atlantis was another extremely weird idea that was executed extremely well. Bravo! Since I'm not into some of the Extreme titles, maybe you could let me know what the Brigade (?) character is doing there.

Overall: 9 out of 10. People who know my secret identity sometimes ask me how I "grade" comics I read. That's easy. The more time I read it the higher the score gets.

Conclusion: Whatever happened to the old thought that the Image boys get along peachy keen? If Mr. Keown had said no when you had asked him, and you had still run the Pitt ad, I can understand being miffed. If he said yes, then sent that beautiful lawyer letter, he should be drawn out and shot. This incident, unfortunately, probably puts a stop in a Savage Dragon/Pitt crossover. Darn. Well, good luck and keep it coming.

MAC

Wyckoff, NJ

I wouldn't rule out an eventual Pitt/Dragon brawl. As far as I know Dale and I aren't mad at each other. Anything's possible.

Dear Erik,

Now that, with Deadly Duo #3 hitting the stands a few days ago, this first three-issue miniseries is over, I'd say it's about high time to give my general opinion on the saga as a whole, and of course the unavoidable specific comments and criticisms on the final issue.

First off, as I've pointed out in earlier missives, I really like the delicate balance you seem to have found in the three issues of this series. Where the first issue was a means to get the two main characters of this book together, more or less introducing the readers to both of them, the second issue shifted focus from the action of the battling kind to the exploration of Kid Avenger's character. Now, in the third issue, we get the privilege of beholding some pieces of Kill-Cat's origin (I should've seen it coming that it would resemble Batman's origin!) and just what makes him tick. One might argue this series would've worked better in four issues, to make the circle round again, ending with an all-out action issue,

KITTY LETTERS

Please send all correspondence to: KITTY LETTERS, P.O. Box 20760, Oakland, Ca. 94620

but I like how it's been done now anyway.

The story itself was incredibly thin, the main plot being loosely held together by the actions of the book's characters, mainly coming together only in the very last pages of the final issue. Also, I noticed the lack of any subplots whatsoever. I do, however, feel this has been the right approach to this book, maintaining a very light-hearted and not so serious tone throughout all issues. It both enhances the fun and enjoyment the readers get out of reading it, as well as the accessibility of the series. It's no exceptional situation these days, that a certain comic book has gotten so complicated with myriads of subplots, that any reader will not be able to jump on, so I'm glad to see you've proven it can be done differently.

The ending felt rushed. Maybe this is the result of the change in plans (changing from three issues to four and back to three again), but to me, the story in issue #3 ended rather abruptly and unexpectedly.

In closing, let's just say Deadly Duo has been an enjoyable series and a very welcome break from the norm. Let's hope the second miniseries will quickly find a way to the shelves, and you even have my vote for an ongoing series about Kill-Cat and Kid Avenger!

Any chance of that?

Olav Beemer

Zeist, The Netherlands

It's just possible. I know John is up for it.

Dear Mr. Larsen:

Closing thoughts on the end of the first Deadly Duo miniseries.

Sheesh, first it's three issues...then it's four...then it's back to three again and a second miniseries scheduled for later in the year! Does the phrase "make up your flaming mind" ring a bell?

Oh well, I suppose that as long as the quality stays high as it has been that it really doesn't matter if the scheduling of the book looks like it was done by Forrest Gump.

For my part, I for one am glad that this miniseries isn't the last we're going to see of Kill-Cat and his new partner, Kid Avenger. I found all three issues to be very well done and completely hilarious, and if you can promise more of the same for the next outing, I'm there!

A particular highlight of #2 was Kill-Cat instructing Kid Avenger on how to use the bathroom. Considering what happened later in the issue, I'm glad he was paying attention!

Also appreciated were the expanded origins for both Kid Avenger and Kill-Cat. Some of the other Image founders don't seem to believe in the concept of explaining all these details when the characters are first introduced...claiming they prefer, instead, to reveal that background info slowly over the course of months or even years. As a fan who values characterization over non-stop action...and who recognizes that without that background, we can't get any solid characterization...that's not a philosophy I agree with. Thus, I applaud writers like you for being willing to give fans like me what we need.

A side note to Dale Keown and his lawyers: hey Dale, I thought we were all supposed to be friends here at Image. Must be hard to draw with that stick up your butt like that...

Anyway, even without a guest-shot by Pitt, this miniseries was a lot of fun to read and I look forward to seeing the next one. And if you're planning on doing an open-ended Deadly Duo series, I'm up for that as well!

Hey, here's an idea for a story: since it could be argued

that Kill-Cat and Kid Avenger are kinda/sorta "take" on Batman and Robin...and since it's fairly common knowledge that Supreme is a kinda/sorta take on Superman...suppose we got the three of them together for a series called "Globe's Greatest" or some such?

Side note to you, an topic unrelated to Deadly Duo: y'know, I'm sure that both Todd McFarlane and (name deleted) would like to put that moronic "feud" and subsequent debate behind them and get on with their lives...as evidenced by the fact that neither one is taking shots at the other in their respective fan-forums. It'd be nice if you called a cease-fire, too, so that all of us can forget this silliness ever happened. "Nuff said?"

Anyway, like I said, I had a wonderful time with this series and am looking forward to doing it again.

David Peattie

Concord, CA

I've pretty well covered the guy with no background over in the pages of The Savage Dragon and thought The Deadly Duo should be a little more straightforward than that. I don't want all of my books to be the same as each other, after all.

Dear Mr. Larsen,

Kill-Cat's origin is the funniest I've ever read in my entire life! Talk about a case of tunnel vision—never even considering Biff's innocence kept me in stitches! Kill-Cat is the undisputed king of delusions! "No wait—this can still work..."

Deadly Duo #3 definitely had a "golden age" feel to it (Hooker Slave Girls From Atlantis, Gator's verbal "curses" when he realized he was trapped, et cetera). I also enjoyed seeing Maneater and Gator, whom I haven't seen since the sketchbook from the Savage Dragon TPB. I was a little disappointed that Kid Avenger broke off his date, mostly due to the fact that that is what any typical hero would have done (and Deadly Duo is far from typical).

Overall, I think the series was good. Not quite Savage Dragon or Freak Force level, but far more entertaining than most other stuff these days. The interesting villains will probably keep me coming back, but some of the jokes are a little too crude for me. The "stuff's coming out of me" joke was just gross (although I'm ashamed to admit that I'm interested in how Kid Avenger would rate sex).

I still can't figure out why the Highbrow books from Image don't sell better than they do but, to be honest, I probably never will. Just another one of the world's mysteries, I guess.

Christopher Roesler

Sparks, NV

The Highbrow books don't sell that bad—heck Highbrow outsold the entire Malibu output for the month of June! We must be doing something right!

-Erik Larsen

Next: The Savage Dragon! Freak Force! Neutron Bob! Laff-A-Lott! This one has it all! (Or at least, quite a bit. "All" may be a tad strong—it does have more than most though, rest assured).